

## FOREST SERVICE CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED FIRE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Date: March 7, 2012

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to treat a portion of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests near Caldwell Fields in Montgomery County with prescribed fire on Wednesday March 7, 2012. The burn will include the perimeter of Unit B on the map, totaling approximately 100-200 acres. Ignition should begin around 2 PM but will be contingent upon weather conditions.

Commitment to human safety is the number one priority.

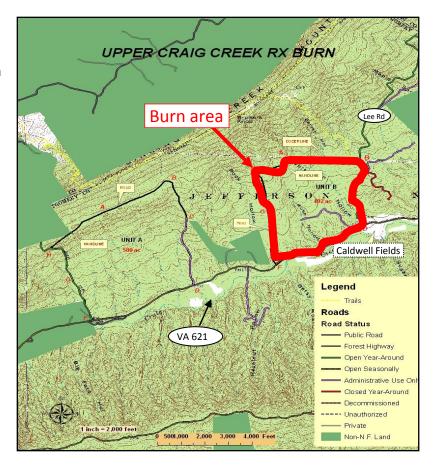
The prescribed burn will:

- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Promote a healthy forest ecosystem
- Reduce hazardous fuels.

Firefighters will use handheld drip torches to ignite the burn. Weather conditions should disperse smoke rapidly. FS 630 (Lee Road) will be temporary closed and will reopen once the prescribed burn is complete. VA 621 will remain open, however travelers should use caution due to smoke and fire fighter activity.

For more information, please contact the Eastern Divide Ranger District at 540-552-4641

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.